Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The vaccine of claim 1~~ A vaccine comprising at least one isolated microorganism or living or dead cells thereof wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of: *Streptococcus bovis* [[()]strain[[:]] SbR1[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04455[[)]], *Streptococcus equinus* [[()]strain[[:]] SER1[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04456[[)]], *Streptococcus equinus* [[()]strain[[:]] SER2[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04457[[)]], *Selenomonas ruminantium* [[()]strain[[:]] SRR1[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04458[[)]], *Selenomonas ruminantium* [[()]strain[[:]] SRR3[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04460[[)]], *Clostridium vitulinus* [[()]strain[[:]] LVR3[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04461[[)]], *Clostridium vitulinus* [[()]strain[[:]] LVR4[[)]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04462[[)]], *Prevotella* isolates LAB01 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12630[[)]] and LAB03 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12632[[)]], *Bacteroides* isolates LAB07 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12636[[)]] and LAB05 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12634[[)]], non-dextran slime producing *Streptococcus* isolate LAB04 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12633[[)]] and non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolates LAB02 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12631[[)]], LAB06 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12635[[)]] and LAB08 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12637[[)]].

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~1~~3, wherein said dead cells are intact cells.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~1~~3, wherein the vaccine is formulated for administration via intramuscular, subcutaneous, or inhalation~~, topical or other parenteral~~ routes.

9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the vaccine composition of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant and/or diluent ~~and at least one isolated microorganism or living or dead cells thereof, wherein said microorganism, when living, is capable of producing lactic acid within the gut of a monogastric, herbivore or ruminant animal, wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of: *Clostridium* species, *Prevotella* species *Bacteroides* isolates LAB07 [[(]]Accession number: NM00/12636[[)]] and LAB05 [[(]]Accession number: NM00/12634[[)]], *Enterococcus* species, *Selenomonas ruminantium*, non-dextran slime producing *Streptococcus equinus*, *Streptococcus bovis* [[(]]strain[[:]] SbR1[[)]] [[(]]Accession number: NM99/04455[[)]] and non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolates~~, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is effective for the prevention of lactic acidosis in said monogastric, herbivore, or ruminant animal.

10.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, further comprising at least one cytokine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing an immune response against lactic acidosis in a vertebrate, comprising administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate an immunologically effective amount of the vaccine in accordance with claim ~~1~~3~~, or a pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 10~~.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16, further comprising administering at least one cytokine.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing an immune response against lactic acidosis in a vertebrate, comprising administering to said vertebrate an immunologically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9~~the vaccine according to claim 1~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of lactic acidosis in a vertebrate in need of said treatment and/or prophylaxis, wherein said method comprises administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate a therapeutically effective amount of the vaccine in accordance with claim ~~1~~3, ~~or a pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 10~~.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the administration of an active agent, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of: antibiotics, enzyme preparations, clay preparations, compounds which slow the digesta flow, prebiotics and probiotics.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of lactic acidosis in a vertebrate in need of said treatment and/or prophylaxis, wherein said method comprises administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate a therapeutically effective amount of ~~the vaccine of claim 1~~a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9.

22.-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) An isolated culture of at least one microorganism selected from the group consisting of: *Streptococcus bovis* [[()]strain[[:]] SbR1[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04455[()]], *Streptococcus equinus* [[()]strain[[:]] SER1[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04456[()]], *Streptococcus equinus* [[()]strain[[:]] SER2[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04457[()]], *Selenomonas ruminantium* [[()]strain[[:]] SRR1[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04458[()]], *Selenomonas ruminantium* [[()]strain[[:]] SRR3[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04460[()]], *Clostridium vitulinus* [[()]strain[[:]] LVR3[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04461[()]], *Clostridium vitulinus* [[()]strain[[:]] LVR4[()]] [[()]Accession number: NM99/04462[()]], *Prevotella* isolates LAB01 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12630[()]] and LAB03 [[()]Accession number: NIM00/12632[()]], *Bacteroides* isolates LAB07 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12636[()]] and LAB05 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12634[()]], non-dextran slime producing *Streptococcus* isolate LAB04 [[()]Accession number: NM00/12633[()]] and

non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolates LAB02 [[(]]Accession number: NM00/12631[D]], LAB06 [[(]]Accession number: NM00/12635[D]] and LAB08 [[(]]Accession number: NM00/12637[D]].